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THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 1908.

**Prof. Bemis' Demonstration.**

It is not often that so complete and convincing a case is made up as that which Prof. Edward W. Bemis presented to the District of Columbia Committee of the House yesterday, covering the pending gas legislation.

Prof. Bemis, after careful study of the Washington situation, explained to the committee:

1. That the Gas Monopoly of Washington, by its own annual report for 1907, demonstrates that it is able to earn 10 per cent dividend, and still sell gas for 82 cents per 1,000 feet.
2. That the gas inflation act of 1896, originally a bad measure, has been construed so as to make it still worse.
3. That nothing less than quick repeal of that measure will safeguard against a big inflation of capital.
4. That the present capital of the Gas Companies mainly consists of capitalized profits.

5. That this constant recapitalization of surplus profits is not permitted in progressive communities of this country or Europe, because it is recognized as contrary to public policy.

6. That there is need of thorough and detailed investigation of the accounts of the Gas Monopoly by skilled accountants, and of its plant by the best engineers, in order intelligently to determine a compensatory and reasonable price for gas.

7. That the practical way to accomplish this is to pass, say, a 75 or 80-cent gas bill, and let the inquiry be held by the courts in case the Gas Monopoly appeals from the law.

Prof. Bemis analyzed with searching effectiveness the annual report of the Washington Gas Light Company to Congress, for 1907. That report, as The Times had repeatedly pointed out, is prepared for the purpose rather of concealing than of displaying the condition of the company. Only in the hands of an expert in the devious ways of such concerns could it have been so illuminating and informative as it became under the glass of Prof. Bemis.

The expert showed that the gas company reported 62 cents per 1,000 as operating cost of gas. Then he showed that after paying 10 per cent on its stock, 6 per cent on its probably illegal certificates of indebtedness, and interest of its bonds, the company still had so much money left that it invested \$270,000 from its surplus in extensions of plant. This \$270,000 represented another 10 per cent on the stock of the company. It also represented 14.57 cents per 1,000 feet of the company's entire gas output. To this extent, then, the \$1 price is clearly excessive.

Beyond this, Prof. Bemis pointed out other items in the report, which he showed are charged at too high a figure. One of these is legal expenses, which are about twice as high as in other companies. Perhaps Prof. Bemis does the company injustice in this regard. It ought to pay well for having a corps of lawyers, all of whom could be so conveniently sick at such an opportune time, and thus secure delay when delay is the only hope of the company. Anyhow, whether they are paid for being conveniently sick or for something else, the Gas Monopoly's lawyers cost more than twice as much as other gas lawyers cost.

Leakage, Prof. Bemis points out, costs about twice as much in Washington as it ought to; or, rather, it is charged at twice as much. He would make a further reduction in this item. Finally, the company makes the consumer pay the interest on his deposit for getting gas turned on, charging this to operative cost. This is clearly wrong. Altogether, from these four items, Prof. Bemis made up a total of 18 cents of clearly excessive charge per 1,000 feet of gas, showing that on its own statement the company proves 82 cents a maximum reasonable selling price.

Prof. Bemis made a splendid impression before the committee, and his talk was most convincing and effective. He has arranged to return to Washington if there is further occasion for his enlightenment of the subject. The Washington Times has made the arrangements for securing his services, on reasonable notice, for such appearances. It is hoped that in the near future the legislation will have passed the House, and be ready for the consideration of the Senate. In that case Prof. Bemis will be requested to appear before the Senate Committee, provided the committee will give opportunity for a hearing.

**The Blind Leading the Blind.**

By digging its own row, while the House brandishes its spade but turns no dirt, the Senate is fast establishing itself in the favorable judgment of the country. A session since and it was the larger body which delivered the goods—a new railway regulation bill, a new immigration bill, a joint Statehood bill, and so on—while the Senate deliberated and delayed and there was much talk of "selling out the country." Even then, however, there was one noteworthy exception, the meat inspection amendment to the agricultural appropriation act, upon which the Senate acted so expeditiously as to leave the legislation full of holes and the House came perilously near sidetracking the whole business.

This session the House has been undermining its own influence. Its floor leader, after boasting like Sancho Panza that the majority could work its own will, was put to the most extreme resort in the history of the House to prevent the Democrats and any twenty-five Republicans from fulfilling the program of a Republican President in spite of a Republican organization.

But the most serious blow at the

standing of the House, as outsiders will see it, even though not the most spectacular, is the fact that the Senate is this year earning the credit for the appropriation bills. It was in the upper house that the raise of army pay was saved; it will be there that the raise of navy pay will be saved; it was there that the work of the Geological Survey was extended to include an inquiry into the causes of accidents in mines; it was there that provision was made for the proper housing of the departments, and it will be there that the proper development of the National Capital will be safeguarded, if at all.

The one new contribution to the money bills of the session which will probably originate with the House will be the proposed omnibus public building bill. On that distinction the Republican Representatives will take their stand before the country. It is not a particularly fortunate selection—for that is the only measure which dissatisfies every locality left out and satisfies those that are included only when the bill carries the whole sum asked. The adroit floor leadership which has permitted itself to be outdone by Mr. Williams at every turn has given further evidence of its far-

sight by planning this bill as almost exclusively a Republican measure. Wherefore the one chance is lost of preventing a deadly parallel on the stump between the leaders' tearful pleas for economy and their liberality in an omnibus public building bill.

**The Tuberculosis Bill.**

By the agreement of the conferees, the Gallinger bill for the compulsory registration of tuberculosis in this jurisdiction, has been much improved.

As the measure left the House it provided that even suspected cases must be reported to the Health Office, and did not require the prompt fumigation of dwellings from which tubercular patients shall remove. The first of these provisions exposed the measure to the only just adverse criticism it has had to encounter; the second and third weakened it manifestly.

In its present form—which is practically the form in which it was introduced by Mr. Gallinger—suspected cases are not to be reported until reasonable doubt shall have been satisfied and infected walls and floors are to be made clean. The expectation is confident that the conference report will be adopted. When that shall come to pass, a great step forward will have been taken in lifting the American Capital out of its disgraceful leadership in disease.

**Our Shame of the Mines.**

Killed in 1906.....2,061  
Killed in 1907.....3,500  
In 1875 the ratio was 3 to each 1,000 workmen; in 1900 it was 3.24; in 1906 it was 4.46.

This is the record of lives lost in American mines. Abroad the ratio runs from 1.28 in Great Britain to 0.91 in France.

What have Americans to say of such a contrast?

The explanation lies in two facts—that a scientific inquiry has been made into the conditions under which mining is done in Europe, while none has been made in the United States which is sufficiently comprehensive; and that on the basis of this inquiry regulations as to the use of "safe" explosives, blasting, firing and similar details of operation have served to save the lives of the foreign workmen.

To put America alongside Europe in this work of pure humanity and national character, it is proposed that the United States shall conduct an inquiry into the conditions which govern mining in the several States. Beyond this the Federal Government cannot hope to go. But for this, the Senate has allowed \$195,000 to be expended under the direction of the Geological Survey, a bureau which has already done much in this same direction, though with inadequate equipment. The issue, like so much else that is good this year, now rests with the House.

That body, through its Committee on Mines and Mining, has recently concluded hearings on the need for the Bureau of Mines. It was reported in our news columns of yesterday that a report favorable to such a bureau would shortly be submitted. It is to be hoped so, indeed, for the bureau is needed as badly as the money provided by the Senate.

Of course, precautions looking to the saving of life are not the only field of such a bureau. There should be inquiries into the methods of smelting, into placer mining, into the means for preventing the present appalling waste of mine products. Mining has grown faster in this country than scientific knowledge. But the chief need is that of saving life, of redeeming the country from a position where the instant death of seventeen men and the hermetical incarceration of seventy others, as at Hanna, Wyo., recently, will not be passed unnoticed.

**FOUND RIVER'S SOURCES.**

Dr. Sven Hedin, the Swedish explorer, states that he has discovered the true sources of the Brahmaputra and Indus. The Brahmaputra, he says, is the Kuitampso, which rises from an enormous glacier on the northern side of the Himalayas. The Marumchu, which has hitherto been regarded as the source, is merely a small tributary flowing in from the west.—Exchange.

**March**

Circulation Figures	
Net Daily Average	
The Times.....	46,306
Increase Over February, 1,486	
The Star.....	38,441
Decrease From February, 528.	

The Association of American Advertisers has examined and certified to the circulation of this publication. The detail report of this examination is on file at the New York office of the Association. No other figures of circulation guaranteed.  
No. 21. *John J. Williams* Secretary.

**WORKMEN'S PUZZLE**

**Organized Labor Claims 5,000,000 Ballots or Balance of Power.**

**Clue to Answer Will Come at Mass Meetings April 19 and 20.**

How much ice will the labor vote cut next fall? Secretary Taft isn't the only man who would like to know. It is the biggest problem now confronting professional politicians. Bryan, Johnson, Judge Gray are figuring on the proposition and no one is taking a deeper interest than those Republican Representatives hailing from doubtful districts who see a menace to their political futures in the latest activities of the American Federation of Labor.

Organized labor claims to control 5,000,000 votes. If true, it holds the balance of political power. Not only can it swing the Presidential election, but it can control the complexion of the next House. How far this claim is true is the problem. Every politician is trying to figure out how far the rank and file will follow the advice of President Gompers of the American Federation and other labor leaders who met recently in Washington.

**Vote Only for Friends.**

No names were mentioned in the appeal they sent to members of labor unions urging workmen to vote only for men who can be depended upon to accede to labor's demands. But each candidate's record is to be scrutinized and if he is hostile, or even indifferent, he is to be scratched.

Some feeling of this answer to the great problem may be given in the labor forum on April 19 and 20 when candidates are to have their "trying out" before organized labor. Mass meetings are to be held under President Gompers' call in every city where workmen are organized. It is expected that as a result of these meetings laboring men will know how to line up.

**Gompers Against Taft.**

Secretary Taft's candidacy is pretty sure to be the big subject of the discussion. Gompers has branded Taft as inimical to organized labor's best interests, largely on account of his labor decisions as a Federal judge in Cincinnati. Some other leaders, however, think Taft has shown a disposition to be fair to labor in his recent speeches, but has been outspoken against legalizing the union. Taft's managers here profess to fear no danger to their candidate from organized labor. Only a small percentage of workmen, they say, will follow Gompers without thinking. They declare there is no such thing as a "labor vote."

Nevertheless, the Administration, father of the boom, is doing everything possible to demonstrate its friendliness to labor. The President has even intimated that if Congress adjourns without passing the employers' liability act and amending the Sherman anti-trust law so as to permit lawful combinations of workmen he will call an extra session. It is hardly likely this will be necessary. The President's intimations generally are favorably impressed with giving labor some of the things it wants. Right now they have their own fences to dig, even if it is to come between Secretary Taft's candidacy being helped along.

**MEYER GOES TO BOSTON TO LEAD CONVENTION**

Postmaster General Meyer has gone to Boston, where he will remain until Monday. Mr. Meyer is slated to be the chairman of the Republican State convention of Massachusetts, which is to be held at the Tremont Temple on Friday.

At the convention Friday, delegates to the Republican national convention will be named for the State at large. There is a strong feeling on to instruct the delegates for Secretary Taft, and Mr. Meyer is understood to be committed to this program.

The tide is said to be strong against an instructed delegation in Massachusetts, and it is believed in political circles that the Postmaster General is up against a losing game.

**THE MORGUE MAN.**

M. Gaud, for thirty years the superintendent of the Paris morgue, said farewell to the grewsome place with tears in his eyes and words of regret on his lips. Newspaper men asked him for "experiences" and "impressions," and when he had given them he received from those who heard him the title of "Philosopher of the Morgue." To a representative of the *Matin* he said that he had been very happy at the morgue and had learned a lesson of life. "When one sees before him continually," he said, "what it is for which we live and die, and commit all sorts of folly, our fears and our worries vanish. Of course, it took me a while before I realized that a dead man is no longer a man, before I learned to look upon those who are brought here from the physical point of view. Until that I accomplished I could not eat, except with aversion. Two weeks cured me." He recalled some of the grewsome scenes which he had witnessed, and said: "I became accustomed to all these things, but never to the police practice of confronting a prisoner with the body of a murdered person. It always disgusted me. Probably because my experience told me that these experiments are senseless. The dramatic breakdown never follows except in books. Only once did I see a man go to pieces, and he was the giant wrestler Samahut, in 1882. Now I go to the country, to a little house with a garden, where there are fresh flowers and green fields. Who is the giant wrestler? Who is the pastoral surroundings disappointments and sorrows which I escaped while I lived here with the dead? Who knows?"—New York Tribune.

**RABBIT-PROOF FENCE.**

After five years' work Australia's great transcontinental rabbit-proof fence has been completed. Its length is 2,638 miles, and the cost of its erection has been nearly \$1,250,000. It is furnished at intervals of five miles with systems of traps, in which hundreds of rabbits are captured and destroyed daily. On the eastern side of the fence the rabbits are teeming and vegetation is almost completely absent. Inside the barrier there appears as yet no trace of their presence.—Exchange.

**Revolution in Senate Threatens Old-Timers**

**Temerity of Several of the Younger Republican Members Foretells a Determined Fight Against the Yoke of the "Family."**

The flag of a real revolt has been raised in the Senate, and the revolution threatens to dethrone Senators Aldrich, Hale, Allison, and that small coterie of their associates that has so long ruled the upper house. Senator Burkett of Nebraska gave a great impetus to the uprising the other day when he attacked Senator Hale with severity, charged him with playing politics and portrayed him as raising the cry of economy merely for effect, and not in good faith. The young Senator from Nebraska swept down on the old-timers from the Pine Tree State like a Western cyclone. The galleries were delighted, and Senators gasped for breath that such a thing should be.

For twenty years Senator Hale has exercised the prerogative of scolding the Senate when he felt like it, and no Republican Senator in recent years has had the audacity to arise and say him nay, with the single exception of Senator La Follette, who has shown little disposition to bow to the yoke of the Senate "family."

Now, however, the revolt is on in earnest. More will be heard of it. It has been brewing for more than a year. The younger element has been getting more and more restive. In attacking Senator Hale, Senator Burkett was not playing a lone hand. He had the sympathy of a strong element of the new Republican Senators, who are tired of the course of legislation absolutely mapped out by a small body of the older Senators, and who are determined to change the order of things if possible. Symptoms of trouble were shown not long ago, when the Aldrich bill was up for consideration. It was widely felt that a number of the newer Senators were forced in line. In the end, Senators Borah, Bourne, Brown, Heyburn, and La Follette voted against the bill, and a number of others would have voted against it had the railroad bond provision not been eliminated. Senator Aldrich's leadership got some severe jolts, and since reports have been circulated that he would retire from the Senate at the end of his present term.

Along with Senator Burkett, some of the men who are not well-disposed toward the regime of the old-timers are the Senators named who voted against the Aldrich bill—Dixon of Montana, Beveridge of Indiana, who is continually kicking over the traces, and several others. William Alden Smith is not entirely amenable to discipline, and grew refractory for a new Republican Senator, in speaking against the railroad bond provision of the Aldrich measure.

Time was when the new Senator that ventured to oppose the ruling oligarchy got so thoroughly disciplined that he did not soon forget it. He was put beyond the pale, ostracized and made to walk in darkness. He had to sit around on the edge of things and was barely allowed to pick at the crumbs of the real status quo of the Senate. Of course, he was apt to get tired. Senator Doliver, for instance, in his early days in the Senate, broke out on the prairie on one or two occasions. He was punished for it, and now is content not to get very obstreperous. But the days of disciplining the refractory are rapidly passing.

It goes without saying that the Senate Democrats are much pleased at the developments on the Republican side. They are still chuckling to themselves over the clash between Hale and Burkett. They say this is but the beginning of the breach, that it will be long in healing, and that it is worse than the schisms from which the Senate Democrats have suffered.

**Coming to Theaters**

The Shuberts announce that "The Blue Moon," in which James T. Powers is being starred, and who is supported by a particularly capable company, will come to the Belasco next week. "The Blue Moon" was an unequalled success abroad for two years, and its cordial reception on this side have been no less flattering. The English pony ballet, by Eugene Thomas, will appear at the Metropolitan next week. It will repeat its triumphs on this side.

**Varied List at National.**

The National Theater will have a varied list of attractions next week. The first two nights, Monday and Tuesday, will be given over to Miss Cora E. Shreve and her juvenile performers. The annual spring carnival held by Miss Shreve is one of the features of each season at the National. Wednesday evening will be given over to the George Washington University Mirel Club. Thursday and Saturday nights and Saturday afternoon will be used by the Metropolitan Grand Opera company of New York. "La Boheme," "Mignon," "Cavalleria Rusticana," and "Pagliacci" will be the operas.

**Grand Opera at National.**

The three performances of grand opera that will be given by the company from the Metropolitan Opera House in New York at the New National Theater, on April 18 and 19 will enlist the services of some of the world's greatest singers. Among the favorite artists who will be heard here will be Mmes. Geraldine Farrar and Jacoby; and MM. Caruso, Scotti, and Ponschi. To these will be added Mmes. Lina Cavalieri, Bessie Abbott, Derynne, Forman, and MM. Bonci, Martin, and Lucas. "La Boheme" will be the opening act of the season, will be given on Thursday, April 18, at 8 o'clock. There will be no performance on Good Friday; and on Saturday, April 19, the company will give two performances, "Mignon," by Thomas, being played in the afternoon, and a double bill composed of *Mascaglia*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, and *Leoncavallo's* "Pagliacci," occupying the evening's performance.

**Moving Pictures at Columbia.**

When those who have not seen Lyman H. Howe's moving pictures are told that it is impossible to realize their merits without seeing them, it is said they cannot realize the force and truth of it until they do see them. This is claimed to apply to the new program, to be seen at the Columbia Theater next week. It is said to abound in amusement, instruction, humor, history, and travel.

**Variety at Chase's.**

Chase's next week will submit Horace Goldin, "The King's Conjuror," Maude Hall, Carleton Macy and company, Barney Fagan and Henrietta Byron, the Village Choir, the Great Richards, and a number of other attractions. The variety and motion pictures of "The Baby"

**PAUL ROY'S EXTRADITION IS REFUSED BY FRANCE**

PARIS, April 8.—The ministry of justice, to which the foreign office turned over the request of the United States for the extradition of Paul L. Roy, a Frenchman who married an American woman known as Glacia Calla, and who has been accused by his wife of killing her brother at Newington, N. H., has decided that no law exists in this country under which Roy can be given over to the American authorities.

**COURTESY AT THE BAR.**

Col. Thomas P. August, in his encounters at the bar, never used harsh language or cutting remarks to a brother lawyer. There was one lawyer at the Richmond bar whose bad manners were a constant irritation to opposing counsel. Colonel August got on so well with this rude lawyer that the other members of the bar wondered how he managed it. One day Marmaduke Johnson, a quiet and amiable lawyer, said: "Tom, how is it you never clash with that stupid — — — while it seems my fate always to run into the 'wrong way'?" "Duke," replied Colonel August, "you have answered your own question. It is because you rub him and he is proud that you take notice that he wears fur, while he interprets my look to mean that I see his nakedness and pity him, and do not regard him as a good suspect for rubbing."—Exchange.

**ASTA GREETS GET NEW NAMES**

**Commissioner Morrow Compiles List for Submission to Colleagues.**

Under the authority of the act of Congress which directs the Commissioners to rename all streets, avenues, alleys, highways, and reservations in the District of Columbia, outside of the city of Washington, Engineer Commissioner Morrow has prepared for action by the Board of Commissioners a tentative list of names for those thoroughfares lying south and east of the Anacostia river, and the naming of all streets and highways in the District.

The plan selected is as follows: Beginning at East Capitol street extended and running north, the names of prominent men, alphabetically arranged, are used. South of East Capitol street the lettered streets of the southeast portion of the city have been extended until the alphabet was exhausted, and then the names of cities and geographical names, alphabetically arranged, were introduced. Until the alphabet was exhausted, when geographical names of two syllables are used.

Where avenues running diagonally were encountered the names of the Southern States are used. Irregular highways were called "roads." Streets running north and south are numbered in continuation of the numbered streets of the city proper.

The changes involve about sixty subdivisions, but the changes in these subdivisions are slight, and local names have been retained wherever possible, according to the system adopted. One of the principal changes is in Anacostia, where the existing names of streets, which are generally named after the Presidents of the United States, have been changed, so the names of Presidents have been used in another section of the District.

**GRANT'S BIRTHDAY TO BE CELEBRATED**

The anniversary of the birth of Gen. U. S. Grant will be observed by the Department of the Potomac, G. A. R., Monday, April 27, at the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, near Thirteenth and H streets northwest. Gen. Nelson A. Miles will preside. The oration of the evening will be delivered by Comrade Gardner, past department commander of the Department of Michigan and now a member of the House of Representatives. Addresses will also be delivered by Mr. Justice John M. Harlan and Comrade J. A. T. Hill, chairman of the Military Committee, House of Representatives. All arrangements are under the direction of the department commander, John S. Welker.

**"NO. 63" KILLED AT WORK; HIS NAME NOT KNOWN**

CHICAGO, April 8.—"No. 63" was killed last night. His life was crushed out by a great iron door in the warehouse at the Pioneer Paper Stock Company at Kingsbury and Ohio streets. "No. 63" is all that anyone knows of him except that he was a man. His identity had long ago been lost in the effacing process of large corporation methods. He had worked faithfully during nearly three years for the company, but his employer never honored him with a name. To them he was always No. 63, just as the man who worked at his side was No. 27 or any other number within the range of the company's payroll. After No. 63 was found to be dead the police set about to learn who he really was. They questioned employees, and each one answered "No. 63" was all they knew. They were numbers themselves. The body of No. 63 is now at Shute's morgue, 213 Chicago avenue.

**FORMER GOVERNOR HITS DENEEN ADMINISTRATION**

WOODSTOCK, Ill., April 8.—Former Governor Richard Yates has opened his campaign for a nomination for another term by attacking Governor Deneen and his administration. In a speech here last night, the first door to be made before the end of the campaign, he charged that the Deneen administration is shamelessly extravagant and inefficient. He terms the administration one of "fake reform" and other charges. "Canting hypocrites" and other charges were freely used in describing the Deneen following.

**CAPITAL PUNISHMENT UPHELD BY MACFARLAND**

Commissioner MacFarland does not approve of the bill to abolish capital punishment in the District. He today recommended to the Commissioners that they forward to Congress an adverse report on the bill introduced by Representative Scott to amend the code of laws of the District by providing imprisonment for first degree murder and for murder in the second degree not more than twenty years.

**A CRISIS AND A CRAZE.**

There are two forces which cause modern England to move—a crisis and a craze. It is far less necessary to do something that is great now in this country than it is to do something that will attract the attention of a great many. "Crisis" circumstances might have had a curious effect on the celebration of the centenary of the American Revolution. The crisis might have delayed existing until now. For instance, Shakespeare today would probably have had to attempt to swim the channel to sustain the attention of playgoers. Cromwell might have found it advisable to take trips in a "dirigible balloon" to keep himself before the general public. Garrison might have elected to desert from the Union army to a parachute to advertise himself satisfactorily, and it might have been necessary for the beautiful Duchess of Devonshire, to maintain her social reputation, to resign occasionally in the divorce court. Motor accidents, thefts of jewelry and of other property, fires and civil and criminal actions, of course, more important elements in the building up and maintaining of a "reputation" among us than is a mere excellence.—London Truth.